AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a call request from a first media gateway controller to a second media gateway controller over a network;

requesting information from the first media gateway controller; and

receiving the information before establishing a bearer path over the network.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the call request comprises receiving the call request over a packet-based network.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the call request comprises receiving the call request over an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the call request comprises receiving a BICC IAM message.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the call request comprises receiving the call request over an Internet Protocol network.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein receiving the call request comprises receiving an IAM message encapsulated in a Session Initiation Protocol message.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein requesting the information comprises requesting the information in a Session Initiation Protocol message.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein requesting the information comprises providing a digit map within the Session Initiation Protocol message.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein requesting the information comprises requesting digits to establish a call session.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including terminating the call in response to receiving the information.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein requesting the information comprises requesting the information in response to determining that additional digits are desired to terminate the call.

12. (Original) An apparatus, comprising:

a first interface coupled to a packet-based network; and

a controller communicatively coupled to the first interface, the controller to:

receive a call request from a media gateway controller over the packet-based network;

determine if at least one digit is required to establish a call session; and

receive the at least one digit from the media gateway controller over the packet-based network from the media gateway controller in response to determining that the at least one digit is required.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the packet-based network comprises one of an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network and an Internet Protocol network.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the call request in one of a BICC IAM and Session Initiation Protocol message.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the controller is further adapted to request the at least one digit from the media gateway controller over the packet-based network.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the at least one digit in at least one of a Session Initiation Protocol message and a BICC message.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the controller is adapted to request a digit map within the Session Initiation Protocol message.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller is further adapted to complete the call session in response to receiving the at least one digit.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the controller is further adapted to receiving information during the call session.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a first interface to couple to a first network;

a second interface to couple to a packet-based network; and

a controller communicatively coupled to the first and second interfaces, the controller to:

receive a call request over the first network from a terminal;

transmit the call request over the packet-based network to a media gateway controller;

prior to a call session being established in response to the call request, receive a request to collect digits from the media gateway controller over the packet-based network;

collect digits from the terminal; and

transmit the collected digits to the media gateway controller.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first network is a Signaling System #7 network.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the call request in an IAM message.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the packet-based network comprises one of an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network and an Internet Protocol network.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is adapted to collect the digits from a media gateway over the packet-based network.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the controller is adapted to collect the digits from the media gateway according to at least one of a Megaco protocol, a media gateway controller protocol, a simple gateway controller protocol, and an Internet protocol device control.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is adapted to transmit the digits within a Session Initiation Protocol message.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the request to collect the digits from the media gateway within a Session Initiation Protocol message.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is further adapted to receive a request to collect digits after establishing a call session.

29. (Original) An article comprising at least one machine-readable storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a processor to:

receive a request to establish a call session over a packet-based network from a media gateway controller;

request information from the media gateway controller; and

receive the information from the media gateway controller before establishing a voice path over the packet-based network.

30. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the processor to receive the request over one of an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network and an Internet Protocol network.

31. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the processor to receive the request in one of a BICC IAM and Session Initiation Protocol message.

32. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the processor to request the information in a Session Initiation Protocol message.

33. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the processor to receive the information in a Session Initiation Protocol message.

34. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the processor to establish the voice path over the packet-based network.

35. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the processor to receive the information indicating that the request may not be completed.

36. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed caused the processor to receive a request for information after establishing the voice path over the packet-based network.

37. (Previously Presented) A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising instructions that when executed cause a processor to:

receive a call request from a media gateway controller over a packet-based network; and

receive at least one digit in one of a BICC and a Session Initiation Protocol message from the media gateway controller before establishing a voice path over the packet-based network in response to the call request.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the call request comprises receiving a Session Initiation Protocol Invite message containing an ISUP initial address message (IAM), wherein requesting and receiving the information occurs prior to sending a Session Initiation Protocol OK message in response to the Invite message.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the information comprises receiving the information in a Session ~~Imitation~~ Initiation Protocol Info message.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the at least one digit prior to establishing the call session in response to the call request.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the call request comprises a Session Initiation Protocol Invite message, and wherein the controller is adapted to receive the at least one digit in a Session Initiation Protocol Info message.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the at least one digit in a Session Initiation Protocol Info message prior to the controller sending a Session Initiation Protocol OK message in response to the Invite message.

43. (Previously Presented)The article of claim 29, wherein the request comprises a Session Initiation Protocol Invite message, and wherein requesting the information from the media gateway controller comprises sending a Session Initiation Protocol Info message to the media gateway controller prior to establishing a call session in response to the Invite message.

44. (Previously Presented) The data signal of claim 37, wherein the call request comprises a Session Initiation Protocol Invite message, and wherein receiving the at least one digit comprises receiving the at least one digit in a Session Initiation Protocol Info message prior to establishing a call session in response to the Invite message.